

RELEASED IN PART
B6

PAGE 01 CARACA 12580 01 OF 03 011951Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	DODE-00
	EB-01	HA-09	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	LAB-04
	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SIL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00
	SS-00	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-01	RPE-00	/085W	
					-----80AB76 011954Z /38		

O 011949Z DEC 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5846
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9090

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 03 CARACAS 12580

STATE FOR ARA/AND AND ARA/P
USIA FOR AR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, VE

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]
VIEWS OF THE NOVEMBER 27 COUP ATTEMPT AND THE AFTERMATH

B6

1. SUMMARY: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] MET WITH PAO AT THE
[REDACTED] ON NOVEMBER 30 TO DISCUSS THE
NOVEMBER 27 COUP ATTEMPT AND ITS AFTERMATH. [REDACTED]

B6

B6

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CARACA 12580 01 OF 03 011951Z

[REDACTED] BELIEVED THAT
PRESIDENT PEREZ (CAP) WILL EMERGE STRONGER AND MORE
POPULAR THAN EVER AS A RESULT OF THE FAILED COUP. HE
THOUGHT THAT CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES SUSPENDED IN
LIGHT OF THE COUP ATTEMPT WILL BE GRADUALLY
REINSTITUTED THIS WEEK SO AS TO PERMIT THE NORMAL
OPERATION OF DECEMBER 6 ELECTION CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY.
[REDACTED] BELIEVES THAT THE PUBLIC WAS REVULSED BY WHAT
THEY SAW OF THE CHARACTER AND BEHAVIOR OF LT. COLONEL

B6

B6

DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED

HUGO CHAVEZ'S SUPPORTERS AT CHANNEL 8 AND THAT THIS ANGER WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO A HIGH TURNOUT ON DECEMBER 6. HE THOUGHT THAT LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE THUS FAR HAD IN THE MAIN BEEN ACCURATE AND HE WAS ADAMANT THAT CENSORS WILL NOT BE SENT INTO MEDIA OFFICES AS OCCURRED ON FEBRUARY 4. THE RADIO RUMBOS INCIDENT WAS LAMENTABLE BUT ONE RADIO ANNOUNCER IN PARTICULAR HAD INCITED PEOPLE TO GO INTO THE STREETS TO SUPPORT THE REBELS. HE HAD INFORMED CAP OF THE RADIO RUMBOS PROTEST ABOUT POLICE BRUTALITY

B6

THOUGHT IT WAS VITAL THAT THE GOV GET THE WORD OUT TO THE WORLD THAT CALM HAD BEEN RESTORED AND FOR THAT REASON CAP PLANNED A DECEMBER 1 PRESS CONFERENCE (COMMENT: WHICH WAS HELD AND ATTENDED BY PERHAPS 60 FOREIGN REPORTERS AND TV CREW MEMBERS) FOR FOREIGN REPORTERS AND VENEZUELAN REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS. THE MIRAFLORES PRESS CONFERENCE WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY A GOV-HOSTED LUNCHEON FOR THE REPORTERS WHERE THEY COULD MEET INFORMALLY WITH GOV OFFICIALS. LIKE OCI DIRECTOR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 CARACA 12580 01 OF 03 011951Z
ZAMBRANO (SEE SEPTTEL) KNEW THAT IMMEDIATE DAMAGE CONTROL WITH THE FOREIGN MEDIA WOULD SOON MOVE TO A NEW PHASE, ONE IN WHICH THE GOV WOULD HAVE TO HAVE A PLAN TO REGAIN FOREIGN GOVERNMENT AND INVESTOR CONFIDENCE. END SUMMARY.

B6

2. ON NOVEMBER 30 PAO MET WITH

B6

HE IS WELL RESPECTED IN THE LOCAL JOURNALISTIC COMMUNITY. HE APPEARS TO BE IN HIS MID TO LATE 30S AND IS SOFT SPOKEN AND REFLECTIVE.

B6

3. BEGAN THE CONVERSATION OBSERVING THAT IT HAS BEEN A HELLISH THREE DAYS, THAT THE CLEANING CREW, HIS SECRETARY AND OTHER STAFFERS STILL HAD NOT RETURNED

B6

DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED

DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED

TO WORK AND THAT HE AND HIS SMALL STAFF WERE
OVERWHELMED. ON NOVEMBER 27

B6

HE REMAINED UNTIL
2:30 A.M. SATURDAY, TOOK A BRIEF BREAK AND RETURNED.
HIS OFFICE HAD BEEN DELUGED WITH INTERVIEW REQUESTS AND
THOUGH IN GOOD HUMOR HE WAS OBVIOUSLY FEELING THE
STRAIN. HE DESCRIBED THE FEAR OF KNOWING THE PALACE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 CARACA 12580 01 OF 03 011951Z
WAS STILL UNDER ATTACK LONG AFTER IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN
OBVIOUS TO THE REBEL PILOTS THAT THEIR CAUSE WAS LOST.
IT WAS SENSELESS AND HE THOUGHT THAT THE VENEZUELAN
PEOPLE AS WELL WERE APPALLED BY THE PHYSICAL HORRORS
AND THE "DESPICABLE" CHARACTER OF THE COUP
PARTICIPANTS.

4. PRESIDENT PEREZ HAD BEEN A TOWER OF STRENGTH
THROUGHOUT AND HAD RESUMED HIS NORMAL SCHEDULE.

B6

COMMENTED THAT IT WAS OF COURSE IMPOSSIBLE TO GRANT SO
MANY INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS SO THAT CAP HAD AGREED TO
MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN REPORTERS (AND VENEZUELAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CARACA 12580 02 OF 03 011952Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	DODE-00
	EB-01	HA-09	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	LAB-04
	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SIL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00

DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED

DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED

SS-00 STR-17 TRSE-00 T-01 RPE-00 /085W
-----80AB97 011956Z /38

O 011949Z DEC 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5847
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9091

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 03 CARACAS 12580

STATE FOR ARA/AND AND ARA/P
USIA FOR AR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, VE
SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

B6

[REDACTED] HE IMPLIED THAT [REDACTED] WOULD
PROBABLY BE JEALOUS AND INDICATED THAT A SIMILAR
MEETING MIGHT BE HELD WITH THEM SOON. A LUNCHEON WOULD
BE HOSTED BY THE GOV AT THE CARACAS HILTON LATER IN THE
DAY IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR A MORE INFORMAL DISCUSSION
WITH GOV OFFICIALS. THE ONLY EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW BEING
CONSIDERED AT THIS TIME WAS WITH CNN (COMMENT: CAP
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

B6

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CARACA 12580 02 OF 03 011952Z
CALLED CNN IN THE WEE HOURS OF NOVEMBER 27 TO INFORM
THEM THAT HE WAS OK AND THAT THE GOV WOULD PREVAIL.
LIKE THE PERSIAN GULF WAR NATIONAL LEADERS, CAP
UNDERSTANDS THE IMPACT AND FAR REACH OF CNN'S SIGNAL).

5. HOW DID THE VENEZUELAN MEDIA PERFORM: ALL IN ALL
THEY DID A REASONABLE JOB ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] BY
NATURE HE ISN'T VERY OPEN WITH PERSONAL VIEWS AND HE
DIDN'T SINGLE OUT ANY NEWS ORGANIZATION AS BEING BETTER
OR WORSE THAN OTHERS THOUGH HE DID SAY THAT THE RADIO
RUMBOS FLAP (SEE SEPTELS) RESULTED LARGELY FROM THE
ACTIONS OF ONE POPULAR ANNOUNCER WHO WAS KNOWN FOR
BEING POLEMICAL AND WHO URGED THE PEOPLE TO GO TO THE
STREETS IN SUPPORT OF THE REBELS. HE REGRETTED THAT
THE DISIP POLICE REACTED AS THEY DID IN BEATING RUMBOS
EMPLOYEES AND DESTROYING PROPERTY. [REDACTED]

B6

[REDACTED] TO INTERVENE AND
RESOLVE THE SITUATION. HE DIDN'T THINK THAT RUMBOS
WOULD LOSE ITS LICENSE ALTHOUGH THAT RUMOR HAD APPEARED

B6

DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED

DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED

IN PRINT. IN ANY EVENT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD
CENSORS BE SENT IN AS WAS THE CASE ON FEBRUARY 4.

6. THE DECEMBER 6 ELECTIONS AND CAP'S FUTURE: [REDACTED]
STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT LT. COL. CHAVEZ AND HIS HENCHMEN
"HAVE BEEN EXPOSED FOR WHAT THEY WERE, I.E. DISLOYAL,
UNDEMOCRATIC RUFFIANS", AND IN THIS SENSE THE COUP
ATTEMPT WOULD HAVE A "CLEANSING" EFFECT. [REDACTED]
THOUGHT THAT THE PUBLIC WAS AROUSED AND THAT THE
DECEMBER 6 TURNOUT WOULD EXCEED MEDIA COMMENTATORS'
PROJECTIONS. HE THOUGHT THAT MORE THAN 50 PERCENT
WOULD VOTE AND THAT THE AD WOULD DO VERY WELL. [REDACTED]
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

B6

B6

B6

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 CARACA 12580 02 OF 03 011952Z
STATED THAT CAP EMERGES STRONGER THAN EVER FROM THE
EVENTS OF RECENT DAYS, THAT EX-PRESIDENT (AND FUTURE
CANDIDATE) RAFAEL CALDERA WILL BE "DEFLATED" AND THAT
THE FINAL YEAR OF CAP'S TENURE SHOULD BE A BRIGHT ONE.

7. THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION ON ASYLUM:
[REDACTED] THOUGHT, NATURALLY, THAT THE DECISION WAS WRONG-
HEADED. HE CLAIMS THAT THE VENEZUELAN CONSUL IN LIMA
SENT A FAX TO THE VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTRY IN WHICH
HE REPORTED THAT THE GOP WAS PROPOSING A DEAL: THE
REBEL AIRMEN WOULD BE RETURNED IF THE GOV WOULD MOVE
QUICKLY TO A NORMALIZATION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS.
GIUSTI SAID THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER OCHOA
CATEGORICALLY REFUSED THE DEAL AND THAT IS WHERE THE
MATTER STOOD.

B6

8. VENEZUELA'S IMAGE ABROAD: [REDACTED] THOUGHT THAT
THERE HAD BEEN SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE COUNTRY'S
INTERNATIONAL IMAGE BUT HE FELT THAT A STRONGER CAP
WOULD BRING ABOUT STABILITY AND THAT SOMEWHERE DOWN THE
LINE THE SITUATION WOULD IMPROVE. HE REMARKED THAT
BUSINESSMEN ENRIQUE MENDOZA HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE
DAMAGE (IN BUSINESS MARKETS) WAS "IRREPARABLE". [REDACTED]
SAID HE DID NOT SHARE THE VIEW BUT HE AGREED WITH [REDACTED]

B6

B6

B6

[REDACTED] THAT THE GOV NEEDS TO SOON SERIOUSLY
DEVISE A PLAN TO WORK WITH FOREIGN JOURNALISTS,
BUSINESSMEN AND OTHERS TO EMPHASIZE VENEZUELA'S
ACHIEVEMENTS AND STRONG POINTS AND TO REGAIN THEIR
CONFIDENCE. THE MEETING ENDED BECAUSE [REDACTED] TO
INFORM AN AIDE WHERE A CHANNEL 8 CAMERAMAN AND AN "EL
NACIONAL" PHOTOGRAPHER COULD STAND TO WATCH THE

B6

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED

DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 CARACA 12580 02 OF 03 011952Z
CONTROLLED DETONATION OF AN UNEXPLODED BOMB WHICH HAD
FALLEN NEAR MIRAFLORES' GROUNDS ON FRIDAY.

9. COMMENT: [REDACTED] OBVIOUSLY WAS SINGING THE PRAISES
OF [REDACTED] AND MAY BE UNDERESTIMATING THE DEGREE OF
GROWING NEGATIVE POLITICAL FALLOUT IN THE PRESS
CONCERNING WHAT THE COUP ATTEMPT MEANT AS A REFLECTION
OF CAP'S LEADERSHIP. [REDACTED]

B6
B6

B6

[REDACTED] AND HIS SUCCESS IN CONVINCING
DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MEDIA THAT HE IS SUCCEEDING AND
INDEED IN CHARGE WILL DEPEND MAINLY ON HIS OWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CARACA 12580 03 OF 03 011952Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	DODE-00
	EB-01	HA-09	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	LAB-04
	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SIL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00
	SS-00	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-01	RPE-00	/085W	
					-----80ABAO 011956Z /38		

O 011949Z DEC 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5848
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9092

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 03 OF 03 CARACAS 12580

DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED

DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED

STATE FOR ARA/AND AND ARA/P
USIA FOR AR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, VE

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

ABILITIES AND DEMONSTRABLE ACHIEVEMENTS RATHER THAN [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SKILLS AND IMAGINATION. SKOL

B6

B6

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNNN

DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED